

ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

AHAC Mission: Develop, encourage and coordinate a statewide plan for Arizona's centennial in 2012 including advising the legislature and state agencies on centennial history and heritage, arts and culture, assisting the governor's countdown to the centennial to support school children learning about Arizona's history and recommending activities and projects that will ensure lasting accomplishments to commemorate the centennial.

Vision for Centennial Projects: Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

Legacy Project Criteria: This is a request for official designation as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must 1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
4. Describe the project location.
5. List project partners, if applicable.
6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources.
7. Please also provide letters of support from project partners and sponsors. These are in addition to the three-page maximum.

Name of project: Old Litchfield Train Depot
Applicant: City of Goodyear
Contact Person: Matthew Hanson
Address: 190 N. Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ 85338
Telephone Number: 623-882-7806
Email address: Matthew.Hanson@Goodyearaz.gov
Web site address: www.goodyearaz.gov
Name of authorizing official: John F. Fischbach, City Manager
Date: November 05, 2008

1. General Description

The City of Goodyear, in an effort to preserve a part of its heritage, is proposing to purchase the Litchfield Train Depot. This Spanish Eclectic style building constructed in 1928 is currently owned by private individuals and was relocated from its original location along the railroad line to its current location in 1972. It has been used as a horse stable, music room, workshop, and is currently being used for storage. The City plans to relocate the Train Depot to a temporary location until the permanent location at the new City Center can be prepared. The City is currently establishing a Centennial Commission who will make final decisions about the ultimate usage of the structure but some suggestions have been: veterans memorial; children's reading room; senior meeting room; public art space; museum; model train club; and commercial ventures such as an ice cream shop, coffee shop and children's railroad.

2. Legacy Project Criteria

The Litchfield Train Depot was constructed in order for executives from Goodyear Tire to take the train from the company headquarters to the cotton farms located in the SW Valley of Maricopa County. Paul Litchfield, an executive with Goodyear Tire, had founded the farms here due to the growing conditions being so similar to Egypt which was producing the highest quality cotton at the time. The Depot was located at the intersection of MC85 and Litchfield Road, Litchfield Road at the time being Paul Litchfield's driveway. Passengers disembarking the train here were told to follow the palm and citrus trees up the driveway (Litchfield Road) to Paul Litchfield's house. Later a company house was constructed (now the Wig Wam Resort) to house visiting company officials. Paul Litchfield's estate and the Wig Wam have been wonderfully restored and the Train Depot is really the missing element of that shared history. Letters dating back to the 20s between Goodyear Officials and the Railroad discuss making this building more ornate than normal in an effort to impress visiting dignitaries. The presence of the Goodyear company and the agricultural enterprises really defined the City of Goodyear and the entire SW Valley.

The Litchfield Train Depot remains virtually intact with very high integrity. The integrity of a historic building is defined as the amount of the building's original fabric remaining after a lifetime of alterations and additions. Very few alterations have been made to the building and no additions have been made to the original footprint. The exterior of the building looks virtually as it did the day it was constructed. Exterior alterations include minor window alterations and minor door alterations. The original signs for the building remain intact with one still hanging on the exterior of the building. Although the building has been relocated from its original site, it maintains sufficient integrity and architectural significance as to be an appropriate Legacy Project.

3. Timeline

The City of Goodyear is currently going through the process of purchasing the Train Depot. A moving company has been selected and prep work for the move shall begin in late November. The move of the Depot to its temporary location is scheduled to occur in early December and infrastructure improvements to the permanent location should begin in the Spring of '09. It is the City's plan to have the Depot moved to its permanent location in the next 18 months and renovation work to begin in the next 24 months. The ultimate goal is to have the Depot moved, renovated, and opened to the public for the Arizona Centennial in February of 2012.

Due to the need to move the Depot to a temporary location this fall, the City of Goodyear would look for funding support as soon as possible. The City expects to expend \$5,000 to purchase the Train Depot, and \$50,000 to relocate it in the next 60 days.

4. Project Location

The Litchfield Train Depot is a wood frame and sand-finish stucco building roughly measuring 24 feet by 59 feet (1,800 square feet). The windows are wood frame, double hung, with various patterns from 1-over-1 to 3-over-1. There are also multi-light wood frame hopper windows. The building originally had wood screens over the windows. The main entrance door to the passenger lobby is wood frame with a semi-circular multi-light transom above. Two large rolling doors appear on the front side of the building. The roof is hipped and sheathed in red clay tiles. Ornate-cut rafter tails are painted and exposed at the eave.

The interior of the building remains virtually intact. The Lobby area, roughly 13 feet by 19 feet has a coved ceiling. The walls are finished with wood lath and plaster with a wood wainscot to three-feet above the finished floor. The bathroom wall remain intact, finished with ceramic tile to approximately six-feet above the finished floor, and lath and plaster above. Most of the bathroom fixtures have been removed. The most character-defining element of the Lobby Area is the large chandelier. It is composed of a metal wagon wheel surrounded by large red globes containing the light bulbs. It is very unique and characteristic of this rural community.

5. Partners

The primary agency involved is the City of Goodyear. This project has been reviewed by City Council and received unanimous support. With the creation of the Goodyear Centennial Commission, this citizen comprised body will oversee all aspects of this project. Other potential partners include the Three Rivers Historical Society, WV Arts Council, the Maricopa County Library District, and local railroad enthusiast.

6. Budget

Phase 1 -\$5,000 to purchase the Train Depot -\$50,000 to relocate the Train Depot to temporary location -\$500 monthly to rent moving equipment

Phase 2 -\$30,000 to relocate the Train Depot to permanent location -\$100,000 for foundation and other site work
-\$500,000 to renovate the Train Depot (depending on ultimate usage)

7. Letters of Support from Project Partners

n/a